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MEDCHI SUPPORTS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, July 31, 2025 — August is recognized as **National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)** in the United States. This annual observance highlights the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. MedChi is using this opportunity to celebrate the success of vaccines and reinforce the collective responsibility to protect public health. Vaccination not only protects individuals—it also strengthens entire communities. For more information, you can visit the <u>CDC's Immunization Page</u>.

The primary goal of Immunization Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about the critical role vaccines play in preventing serious illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. It also aims to:

- **Encourage parents** to follow the CDC-recommended vaccination schedule for their children.
- **Promote** routine immunizations for adolescents and adults.
- Remind healthcare providers to review and update patients' immunization records.
- Counter vaccine misinformation and build confidence in safety and efficacy.

It is important to remember that:

- Vaccines protect: Immunization helps prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases such as measles, whooping cough, and influenza.
- Vaccines are safe: Vaccines undergo rigorous testing and ongoing monitoring to ensure their safety and effectiveness.
 - **Vaccination is lifelong:** From infancy through older adulthood, staying up to date matters.
- Community immunity matters: High vaccination rates protect those who cannot be vaccinated, such as people with certain medical conditions.

Dr. Padmini Ranasinghe, President of MedChi, encourages families, physicians, and other healthcare practitioners alike to come together around vaccination. "Parents and guardians, speak with your child's doctor or pediatrician about staying on schedule with vaccinations. Physicians are encouraged to share clear, accurate vaccine information—whether in your office, online, or out in the community—and, with National Immunization Awareness Month in August, it's a wonderful opportunity to support local immunization clinics or join awareness events."

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.